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Tuesday, June 4, 2013

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Ten dead, thousands evacuated as floods sweep Europe



Floodwater of the river Mulde encloses some houses north of Eilenburg, eastern Germany. (AFP PHOTO)

PRAGUE (AFP) - Thousands were forced from their homes and at least 10 people were killed as floodwaters deluged swathes of Europe on Monday, including the historic centre of the Czech capital Prague.

Shops and schools were shut and road and rail transport were disrupted across the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany following torrential rains.

The flooding caused chaos at Prague Zoo where around 1,000 animals were moved to higher ground after the Vltava river burst its banks late Sunday.

Zookeepers had to tranquilise tigers and other large animals in a dramatic overnight operation.

"It's a terrifying feeling to experience this all over again," Petr Velensky, the zoo's reptile specialist, told AFP, recalling how many animals drowned in a 2002 flood.

Czech rescue crews were searching for four more people believed to have died in floodwaters that cut power to tens of thousands of households.

The heavy rainfall has triggered nightmarish memories of the 2002 floods that killed dozens in the region including 17 in the Czech Republic alone.

The Czech government

declared a state of emergency Sunday, deploying 2,000 troops in its rescue drive as more than 8,000 people were evacuated from their homes, officials said.

A house collapse claimed two lives south of Prague, while an electrician was killed trying to switch off a transformer as a precaution, a woman perished when she was hit by a falling tree branch and three men drowned in rivers or drains around the country, police said.

"You realise here what nature can do. How helpless we really are despite having all our technology," Prague pensioner Helena Holubova said, watching the water rise from a bridge over the Vltava in central Prague.

With Prague's 14th-century Charles Bridge under threat, a 25-tonne excavator was at work throughout the day Monday to remove debris piling up around the structure.

The river was expected to peak in the capital on Tuesday.

Thousands of households were hit with power outages, while fallen trees snarled rail traffic across western regions of the Czech Republic, where chemical plants were also shut down as a precaution to prevent dangerous spills seen in 2002.

Aruba's Sarah-Quita winner of "Most Outstanding Pearl of the Dutch Caribbean"



Last Saturday, June 1, 2013, the second night of the "Pearls of the Dutch Caribbean 2013" award gala was conducted in Rotterdam. This annual show and party celebrates the social achievements of the Dutch Caribbean community. Young professionals and high performers within this community are honored in various categories for their outstanding contributions and achievements in the past year.

Aruba's own Sarah-Quita Offringa received the ultimate distinction, the "Most Outstanding Pearl of the Dutch Caribbean 2013" award. The six-time Freestyle Windsurf champion received the maximum number of popular votes.

Other winners are: Archell Thompson (community), Christella Garard (student), Ivy Defoe (science), Rinchemar Martina (music and entertainment), Wijnand Stomp (art and literature), and

Danitz Jacobs (business).

The event featured with live musical performances, stand-up comedy and prose presentations of famous and upcoming artists, inspiring keynote speeches and a swinging after party. Among the performances were Diego Markwel, DC Dance Talents,

Smiley, Marlon Kicken and Izaline Calister.

Invited guests included, among a number of famous personalities, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk and Mayor of Rotterdam Ahmed Aboutaleb.

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The Festival of San Juan, Dera Gay, coming up on June 24. This year, a team from Aruba's Department of Culture began visiting schools yesterday to teach the children about this holiday and their cultural roots. (read more on pg 2)

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Young islanders relive olden times in preparation for the Festival San Juan Dera Gay



School children learn about cultural traditions

Most cultures have their traditions for celebrating the harvest and times of plenty; for Aruba, it is the Festival of San Juan Dera Gay, coming up on June 24. The regional holiday began over 150 years ago with the Festival of St. John

the Baptist, dating back prior to 1862. It had its origins in Mexico, was adopted in Guatemala and Venezuela, and was eventually integrated into island culture. "Dera Gay" means "Bury the Rooster," a particular ritual of the

San Juan Festival native to Aruba.

The holiday was a time for feasting and great overindulgence in alcoholic beverages. In historic times, burying of the rooster entailed a formalized competition to behead the unfortunate bird, and was the highlight of the evening. It is believed it was also symbolic of the fate of St. John the Baptist. Those participating in the event were usually quite drunk, so their efforts to win were lengthy and comical. The winner received the bird as a prize, which usually then went into the soup pot, so nothing went to waste.

In our modern and more humane times, the contest has evolved into a ritualistic dance that a number of island folkloric groups perform during the holiday. Today, the rooster is now replaced with a native gourd, the calabash, as a substitute. Festive song and dancers in bright yellow and red costumes performing the traditional dance, are the heart of celebrations that various community centers schedule



Dera Gay School team

within their neighborhoods to observe the holiday. A ritual bonfire, replicating the practice of clearing the fields of chaff by setting them afire, will usually end the evening.

This year, a team from Aruba's Department of Culture began visiting schools yesterday to teach the children about this holiday and their cultural roots. For two weeks, through June 13, the Dera Gay team will visit a

total of 50 schools, during their morning sessions. This entertaining break for the students will also enlighten nearly 20,000 island youth. "It is the assigned task of the DCA to encourage each generation to honor and maintain the distinct aspects of our Aruban culture," noted committee leader John Fleming, when announcing the upcoming school schedule.

By Rosalie Klein

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The Netherlands gets ready for floods as river water levels rise

Flood plains along the banks of the Rhine and other major rivers are expected to be under water in places later this week as very heavy rains in Germany have an effect in the Netherlands.

The water in the Rhine at Lobith, where the river crosses into the Netherlands, is expected to reach 13.55 metres above NAP in the coming days. NAP is the base used to measure how high or low water levels are.

A river level of 13.55 meters is considered high but not worrying.

However it does mean

flood plains along the river which are being used as campsites or for livestock will have to be cleared. Land owners have already been warned that high water is on its way and that dams are being opened, ANP said.

A number of small foot passenger ferries used to cross some rivers have also been taken out of action. This means walkers and school children face considerable detours.

The heavy rain has caused serious flooding in parts of central Europe and several people have been killed. Emergency operations are under way in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic to deal with record levels of flooding in some places, the BBC reported.

Jolene Kwasnik honored by ATA at the Red Sail Pier



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice Lady who is a loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitor, at her favorite spot in Aruba, the Red Sail Pier on the catamaran Fiesta. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appre-

ciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. The honoree was Ms. Jolene Kwasnik from Plainville Connecticut. Jolene has visited Aruba for 13 consecutive years in 28 trips and she loves Aruba very much, most of all her local friends like Mrs. Patricia Boekhouwer and family, the Red Sail Sport crew and

catamaran, the beaches, snorkeling, sunshine our trade wind and the beautiful sunset. Aruba Tourism Authority wishes Jolene many more trips to Aruba. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Captain Big Rich, Little Rich and JP and friends and family of Jolene.

A little 'something' brewing in the Gulf

MIAMI -- Tropical storm forecasters are taking note of a low pressure system just north of the Yucatan Peninsula that will likely organize itself into a tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico by midweek. It is too soon to say how much and how quickly the system will develop or exactly where it might go.

On Monday morning the National Hurricane Center described the system as "a large area of cloudiness and disorganized thunderstorms," and said "any development of this system is likely to be slow ... due to marginally favorable environmental conditions."

The NHC gave it only a 20 percent chance of developing into anything serious over the next 48 hours, but other forecasters say it is still worrisome and could bring at least heavy rains to some place on the Gulf coast by the end of the week.



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Aruba's Sarah-Quita winner of "Most Outstanding..."

Continued from pg 1



The annual Pearls of the Dutch Caribbean Award is an initiative of 'Stichting Overlegorgaan Caribische Nederlanders' - (OCAN), the Foundation Consultative body of the Dutch Caribbean.

Through sharing knowledge, contacts, insights and

vision, the purpose of this group lies in strengthening the network of the participants. While showcasing the professional talents and quality existing among the people of the Dutch Caribbean Islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and Sint Maarten.



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Qualifications:

Previous management experience required. Aviation experience is an advantage, not a must. Fluent in English and Spanish is a must. Dutch and Papiamentu an advantage. People person skills. Must have a clean driving record and hold a valid driver's license.

Guiding Principles:

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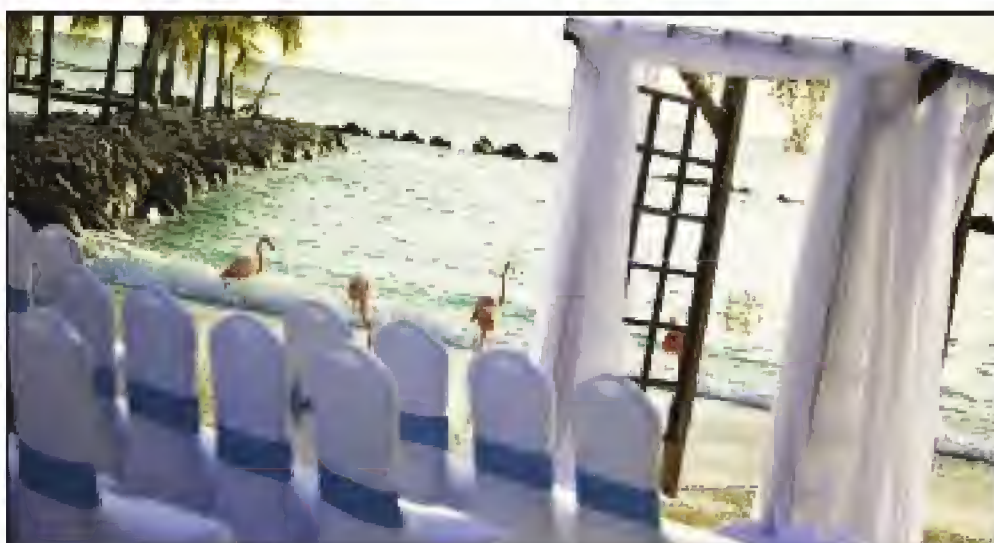
What do I have to do if I am interested?

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume and motivation letter to c.maduro@genairaruba.com before June 10, 2013. "You make the difference. Excellence is in your hands."

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino receives Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence 2013



Marina Dock



Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino was recently honored

with a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Award. The accolade, which honors hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor.

To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher, out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on TripAdvisor, and must have been listed on Tri-

pAdvisor for at least 12 months. Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino, located in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, boasts two distinct resorts, one for families, and one exclusively for adults. And both offer excellent dining, shopping and endless entertainment. The Renaissance Marina Hotel is an adults-only haven with a sophisticated ambiance suited to singles and couples. For a family vacation, the Renaissance Ocean Suites has ample room and activities for everyone in the family. Every guest is welcome to board a complimentary water taxi and set out for Aruba's only private beaches on Renaissance Island.

"Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino is proud to receive a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence," said Zugheila Lindeborg of the Renaissance Resort Aruba. "We strive to offer our customers a memorable experience, and this accolade is evidence that our hard work is translating into positive reviews."

Half the population stuck on Sidewalk



By: Roland W. Peterson

The elderly man was trying to avoid the repugnant chewing gum on the sidewalk as he slowly progressed

Every now and then he got stuck with his shoes to the chewing gum on the sidewalk

When walking just notice how much chewing gum is on the sidewalk

The elderly man mumbled something, all I could hear was: "This is not a sidewalk, it is a spit walk"

If we continue to spit out chewing gum on the sidewalks at the rate we have today, by 2040, half of the population will be stuck on the sidewalks, if nothing is done about it

Are we still having fun?

Minor earthquake struck Curacao yesterday

WILLEMSTAD -- At around 8:55 yesterday morning there was a light earthquake in the Caribbean Sea. This earthquake was also felt in some parts of Curacao.

Data received by the Meteorological Service indicate that the earthquake was at the bottom of the ocean at 1.9 kilometers with a magni-

tude of 3.5 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was at 12.16 degrees north and 68.87 degree west, which locates it at Ronde Klip Curacao.

Based on the data and historical facts, a destructive tsunami is not possible for the islands in the Caribbean sea.

Dutch railways wants to dump Italian high-speed train

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch national railways on Monday said they wanted to ditch costly high-speed trains made by Italian company Ansaldo-Breda, three days after a similar decision was announced in Belgium.

The Dutch Railways (NS) Board "has indicated that they no longer want to go through with the V250 train made by AnsaldoBreda," the NS said in a statement on

Monday evening.

"An investigation into the technical aspects have confirmed that the V250 was completely unreliable," the NS added.

Known popularly as the "Fyra", the high-speed train was supposed to carry passengers from Amsterdam to Brussels at speeds of around 250 km/h (155 miles per hour), but has run into major problems since its official

launch on December 9 last year.

Local news reports said the trains were often late because of problems with software, brakes as well as parts of the train loosening and falling off among other issues.

On January 17, just over a month after its official launch, the NS decided to take all Fyras off the track and opened a full-scale probe.

"Based on the conclusions of an extensive investigation, the NS has come to the conclusion that continuing with the V250 would be irresponsible and not desirable for travellers," the NS said.

The NS's conclusions are to be presented to Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem later this week, Dutch media reported, saying opposition parties in parliament had called for an urgent debate on the issue.

Venezuela media group sold, company says

CARACAS (AFP) - The Venezuelan media group Cadena Capriles, which owns the country's largest circulation newspaper, announced Monday it is being sold to an unidentified group of local investors.

Miguel Angel Capriles, the group's president, announced the sale in a notice to employees disclosed on the website of its flagship daily, Ultimas Noticias, an influential tabloid with broad national circulation.

The announcement said the group and all its assets were being acquired by "a known Venezuelan investor group," which will take over management of the company over a 60 day period. It did not further identify the group.

Ultimas Noticias has a daily circulation of 270,000 and 350,000 on weekends. Its editor Eleazar Diaz Rangel is considered close to the government, but opposition columnists are well represented on its op ed page.

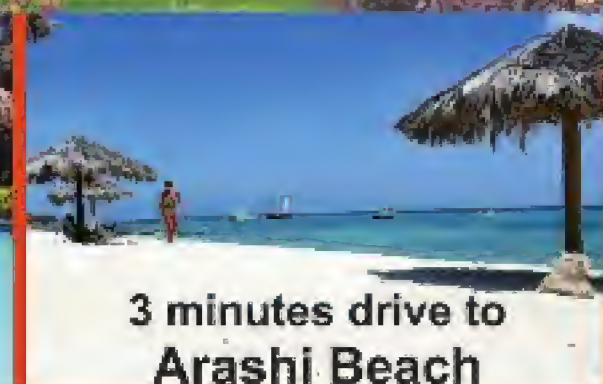
Henrique Capriles, the opposition leader who is challenging the outcome of April 14 presidential elections to replace the late Hugo Chavez, is distantly related to the group's owners but has no stake in the company.

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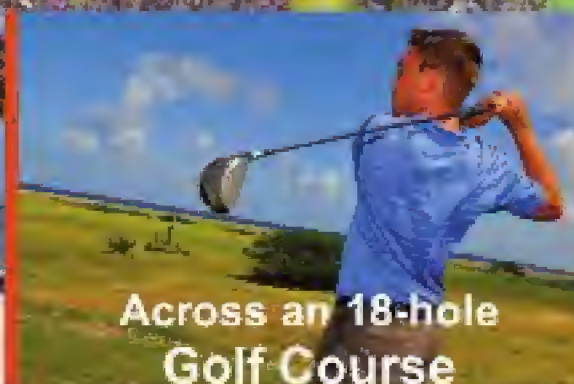
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More than 60 countries sign new arms trade treaty

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - More than 60 countries on Monday signed a landmark conventional arms trade treaty, but the United States held back from joining the first wave of signatories while Russia and China are expected to stay out of the accord.

The UN-brokered treaty is the first covering weapons of any kind for more than a decade and aims to bring transparency and protection of human rights into the often dubious \$85 billion-a-year global trade.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said the treaty will "put an end to the 'free-for-all' nature" of weapons dealing and make it harder for warlords, pirates and terrorists to get arms.

The treaty covers tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber artillery, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile launchers, as well as the vast trade in small arms.

Countries that ratify the treaty would have to evaluate before making a deal whether it risks breaching an international embargo, violates human rights law, or could be used by terrorists or criminals.

The opening of signatures was described as an "extremely important milestone" by ministers and other representatives of Argentina, Australia, Britain, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Kenya which sponsored the first 2006 UN resolution calling for treaty talks.

Argentina was the first of 63 countries to sign the treaty on the first day.

Fifty ratifications are needed for the treaty to come into force. Finland's Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja said this could be done within a year.

The UN General Assembly passed the treaty in April when 154 countries voted in favor, but Syria, North Korea and Iran voted against and Russia, China, Egypt and India were among 23 countries to abstain.

Russia and China are not expected to join the treaty any time soon.

Among major arms exporters, Britain, France and Germany all signed the treaty on the first day.

Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle called the treaty a "historical breakthrough".

But he added that the treaty "can only make a real

difference if it is fully implemented on a global scale. Our first task is to push for its early entry into force." Westerwelle said the German par-

liament will start work on a draft ratification law this week.

The United States, the world's biggest exporter of

arms and ammunition, played a key role in getting the treaty passed but was not among the first signatories.



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International News

Philippines passes strict gun measure

MANILA (AFP) - Philippine President Benigno Aquino has signed a law making it harder for private individuals to own firearms following a series of high-profile deaths this year, a government spokeswoman said Sunday.

Under the law signed last week, those seeking to buy firearms will have to undergo drug and psychological tests and should not have a criminal record or pending court cases.

They will also have to show proof of income as well as a valid tax return and secure clearance from their respective city or municipal police offices.

Qualified citizens will only be allowed to own small firearms, and those who fail to renew their gun licence every two years will have their weapons confiscated by police.

The government was also stepping up its drive against illegal guns, with police going from door to door to check on potential sources of unlicensed

weapons deputy presidential spokeswoman Abigail Valte said.

Gun ownership is a sensitive issue in the Philippines, where many own or carry firearms to protect themselves amid rampant criminality.

It was not clear how the law will help address the proliferation of unlicensed firearms or the thriving black market trade of these weapons.

The issue took centre stage in January, following a spate of shooting deaths, including two children hit by stray bullets on New Year's Eve.

A drug-crazed gunman also killed seven people in a slum rampage, and a shoot-out linked to a gambling turf-war left 13 dead, among them corrupt police and military officers.

Police data showed there were 1.2 million registered guns in the Philippines as of last year, with an estimated further 600,000 unlicensed firearms in circulation.

Pentagon weighs larger post-2014 force in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Pentagon is weighing a proposal for a larger, temporary US force to remain in Afghanistan after most NATO combat troops withdraw in 2014, a spokesman said Monday.

Officials had previously suggested President Barack Obama's administration was considering a smaller force of up to 8,000-12,000 troops to stay in Afghanistan after the bulk of a NATO-led contingent departs as planned at the end of 2014.

But the former US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, retired general John Allen, and a former top Pentagon official, Michele Flournoy, floated the idea last week of a "bridging force" that would expand the post-2014 presence by several thousand troops for up to three years.

The additional troops would be able to provide air power, medical evacuations and other support to the Afghan forces, which will still lack some capabilities when NATO forces depart in 2014, according to Allen and Flournoy, who outlined the idea in a report released Friday.

The Pentagon confirmed for the first time Monday that the option was being considered.

The option of a larger US force appears to signal a recognition in the Obama administration that the Afghan forces may need more help after 2014 than originally hoped.

The Afghan army and police have grown rapidly in a multi-billion international effort to build up the country's security forces, which now number roughly 350,000.



BAVLA (AFP) - The bodies of 38 year old Indian woman Alka (L), her son Yash (2L) 13, daughters Krishna 17 (2R) and Pinkle 16 are draped in flowers near their house before being taken to a crematorium in the village of Bavla around 30 kms from Ahmedabad yesterday after they committed suicide in the western Indian state of Gujarat. Five members of an Indian family committed suicide by drinking poison, police said adding that one member survived, but is in a serious condition and undergoing treatment at a hospital. A preliminary probe to find the cause of the family suicide revealed that the family was allegedly under pressure from money lenders.

ISTAMBUL (AFP) : Protestor clash with Turkish riot policemen between Taksim and Beşiktaş in Istanbul yesterday during a demonstration against the demolition of the park. Turkish police on June 1 began pulling out of Istanbul's iconic Taksim Square, after a second day of violent clashes between protesters and police over a controversial development project. Thousands of demonstrators flooded the site as police lifted the barricades around the park and began withdrawing from the square. What started as an outcry against a local development project has snowballed into widespread anger against what critics say is the government's increasingly conservative and authoritarian agenda.

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Health & Living

Michael Douglas denies blaming oral sex for his cancer



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A spokesman for Michael Douglas denied Monday that the Hollywood veteran actor had blamed his throat cancer on oral sex, in a British newspaper interview.

The spokesman said the 68-year-old "Fatal Attraction" star had discussed the link between oral cancers and oral sex, among other risk factors, but was not referring to his own specific case.

"Michael did not say cunnilingus was the cause of his cancer," spokesman Allen Burry told AFP, referring to the star's interview with British daily the Guardian.

In the newspaper interview Douglas, who stars in the just-released biopic of flamboyant entertainer Liberace, "Behind The Candelabra," said his cancer was caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

"Without wanting to get too specific, this particular cancer is caused by HPV, which actually comes about from cunnilingus," he was quoted as saying.

"I did worry if the stress caused by my son's incarceration didn't help trigger it. But yeah, it's a sexually transmitted disease that causes cancer," he

added, referring to his son Cameron's jailing for drug offenses.

But Douglas's spokesman said the actor was talking in general, not personal terms. "This is not the cause of his cancer," he said.

"Is this a cause of oral cancers? Yes, along with drinking, along with smoking, along with stress, along with pollution. All of those things cause oral cancer."

The two-time Oscar winner revealed in 2010 that he was battling with stage-four cancer, but beat the disease thanks to a grueling regime of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

"I have to check in regularly -- now it's every six months -- but I'm more than two years clear," he told the Guardian. "And with this kind of cancer, 95 percent of the time it doesn't come back."

Research studies from Malmo University's Faculty of Odontology and in The New England Journal of Medicine both suggest a correlation between oral sex and throat cancer.

HPV infection is also the cause of 99 percent of cases of cervical cancer, according to studies cited by Britain's National Health Service (NHS).

Douglas' wife, Oscar-winner Catherine Zeta-Jones, in April received further treatment for bipolar disorder.



(AFP) - Three-day-old Iman and Amani Palestinian Siamese twin girls from the Breiweh family lie on a bed in the newborns unit at the Alia Hospital in the West Bank city of Hebron on June 03, 2013. Their mother received permission from the Israeli government to deliver at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital, but the girls were born with one stomach and two hearts connected in one organ, according to Israeli doctors. The woman was warned by Palestinian doctors during prenatal checkups that she had Siamese twins but she refused to terminate her pregnancy because of her religious beliefs. The Hebron-based family now hopes Saudi Arabia will take the girls in charge and determine whether an operation would be an option.

US Supreme Court favors DNA samples

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court on Monday upheld the power of law enforcement officers to take DNA samples from suspects of serious crimes, saying it's no different than fingerprinting or mug shots.

In a 5-4 decision, the highest court in the nation reinstated the 2003 rape conviction of a Maryland man that hinged on DNA collected when he was taken into custody in an unrelated assault case six years later.

"DNA identification of arrestees is a reasonable search that can be considered part of a routine booking procedure," said Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority.

"Taking and analyzing a cheek swab of the arrestee's DNA is, like fingerprinting and photographing, a legitimate police booking procedure that is reasonable under the Fourth Amendment," Kennedy said.

Police in Maryland, using a buccal swab, had collected DNA from Alonzo King when he was arrested in the Mid-Atlantic state's Eastern Shore region in 2009 for threatening a group of people with a shotgun.

When that sample went into



the state DNA database, it was found to match DNA collected in 2003 in an Eastern Shore rape case in which the victim had been attacked by an armed intruder in her home.

It went on to be used to charge, convict and sentence King to life in prison for rape -- but the verdict was overturned by Maryland's Court of Appeals, which deemed the DNA swab to be a violation of King's rights against unreasonable search under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution.

Setting out his dissenting view, Justice Antonin Scalia expressed deep concern about the potential of DNA samples winding up in a national database "if you are ever arrested, rightly or wrongly, and for whatever reason."

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Sci-Tech

Apple ebook price-fixing trial opens

NEW YORK (AFP) - The US government's trial against Apple, accused of leading a conspiracy to fix prices of electronic books, opened Monday in New York.

The California technology giant is on its own in its fight against the US Justice Department, after five of the world's biggest book publishers named in the suit settled the charges and paid fines.

US antitrust watchdogs say Apple orchestrated a collusive shakeup of the electronic book business in early 2010 that resulted in higher prices.

Attorneys for both sides appeared in the courtroom of Judge Denise Cote shortly after 9:30 am (1330 GMT) Monday, discussing procedural matters ahead of opening arguments.

The civil trial is expected to last three weeks, and comes with Apple under pressure for its slumping share price, eroding market share for its iPhones and iPads and accusations in Congress it avoided billions in taxes.

Apple chief executive Tim Cook has rejected the idea of a settlement because it would call for the company to sign an admission of wrongdoing.

The government's case centers on a period when Amazon dominated the ebook business, offering most bestseller titles for \$9.99. Leaders of the major publishing houses held "CEOs dinners" in "private rooms at upscale restaurants" at which they discussed the threat from Amazon.

Into this environment stepped Apple, which was readying the launch of its iPad. Rather than following the Amazon "wholesale" pricing model in which the retailer sets the price, Apple favored the so-called "agency model" where the publishers set the price and the seller -- in this case Apple -- received a 30 percent commission.

The result was an increase in price to \$12.99 or \$14.99 for most books.

Apple throughout the negotiations informed the publishers of the status of its dealings with other publishers. Apple was the "ringmaster" of the "conspiracy," the complaint alleges.

The government is expected to use emails and comments from the late Apple CEO Steve Jobs, which indicated that as part of a deal to force a new pricing model, publishers should "hold back your books from Amazon."

"The sharply higher prices consumers have paid... are the direct, quantifiable result of defendants' conspiracy," the government said.

Apple dismisses the "conspiracy" charge and said its negotiations with the publishers were "difficult and contentious."

Apple acknowledged that it did inform publishers about its talks with other firms, but characterized this as a "standard negotiation tactic."

Among the publishers named in the lawsuit last year, Penguin settled for \$75 million, while Hachette, Harper Collins and Simon & Schuster created a \$69 million fund for refunds to consumers. Macmillan settled for \$26 million.

Ford recalls 465,000 cars for fuel leaks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ford on Monday announced the recall of 465,000 model 2013 cars worldwide to fix a possible fuel leak that has the potential to catch fire.

The vehicle models include the 2013 Ford Explorer, Taurus, Flex, Fusion, Interceptor Utility, Interceptor Sedan, and Lincoln MKS, MKT and MKZ, Ford said.

The fuel delivery module in the cars can leak and customers have reported both fuel odors and signs of leaking fuel on the ground.

"While a fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source may result in a fire, there have been no reports of fires," Ford said. "We are not aware of any accidents or injuries attributed to this condition."

Most of the cars were sold in the United States and Canada, but some 53,000 were delivered in other markets.



HAERBIN (AFP) - : This picture taken on week-end shows two Siberian tiger cubs adopted by travel agencies in the Siberian Tiger Park in Haerbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang province. Latest figures show there are less than 530 wild Siberian tigers left in the world, with no more than 20 living in China, state media reported



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COMICS

PICKLES



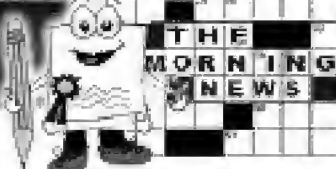
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ACROSS

1. Untidy person
5. Crowd
8. Actress Campbell
12. Vegetarian staple
13. ___ de France
14. Bard's river
15. Mast
16. Narc's org.
17. Sharp taste
18. Decompose
20. Faucet leak
22. Made a goal
25. Bring forth
28. Chinese chairman
29. Poetic "before"
30. ___ badge
31. "___ Tin Tin"
32. Civil rights leader's inits.
34. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
35. Ancient Peruvians
38. Make a knot
40. Five-and-___
41. Large wading bird
42. Oakley and Hall
44. Single group
46. Hideout
47. Heart
49. Breakfasted
51. Misunderstands
55. One of Shrek's pals
56. Last-yr

students

57. Dessert selections
58. Greek war god
59. Kit ___ Club ("Cabaret")
60. Caesar's attire

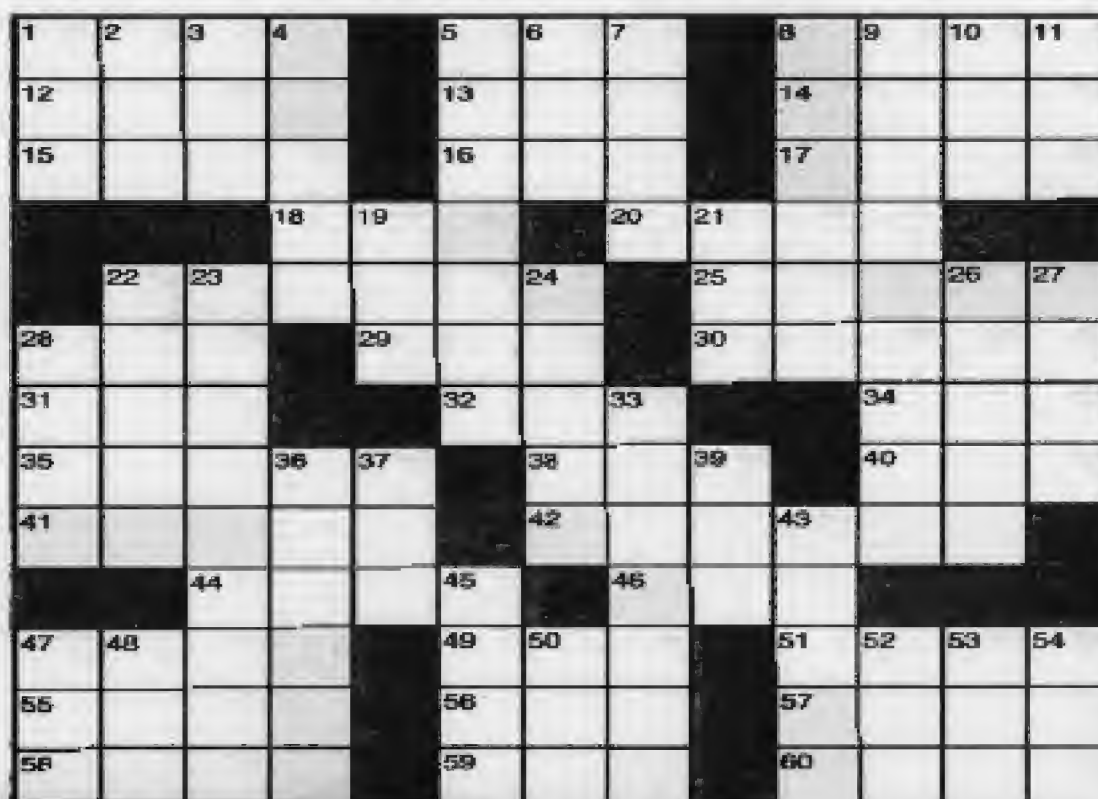
DOWN

1. Main and Wall (abbr.)
2. Chop
3. "Anatomy ___ Murder" (2 wds.)
4. Small pack animal
5. Certain exam
6. Juan's cheer
7. Droplet
8. Local resident
9. Turn water to gas

10. Max ___

- Sydow
11. Liverpool's locale (abbr.)
19. Aluminum source
21. Sleep stage (abbr.)
22. Holy person
23. Broad thoroughfare
24. River mouth
26. Flying toys
27. Prince Harry's alma mater
28. Diagnosis tools (abbr.)
33. Most thoughtful
36. James of "Gunsmoke"
37. Enjoy Aspen
39. Compass dir.

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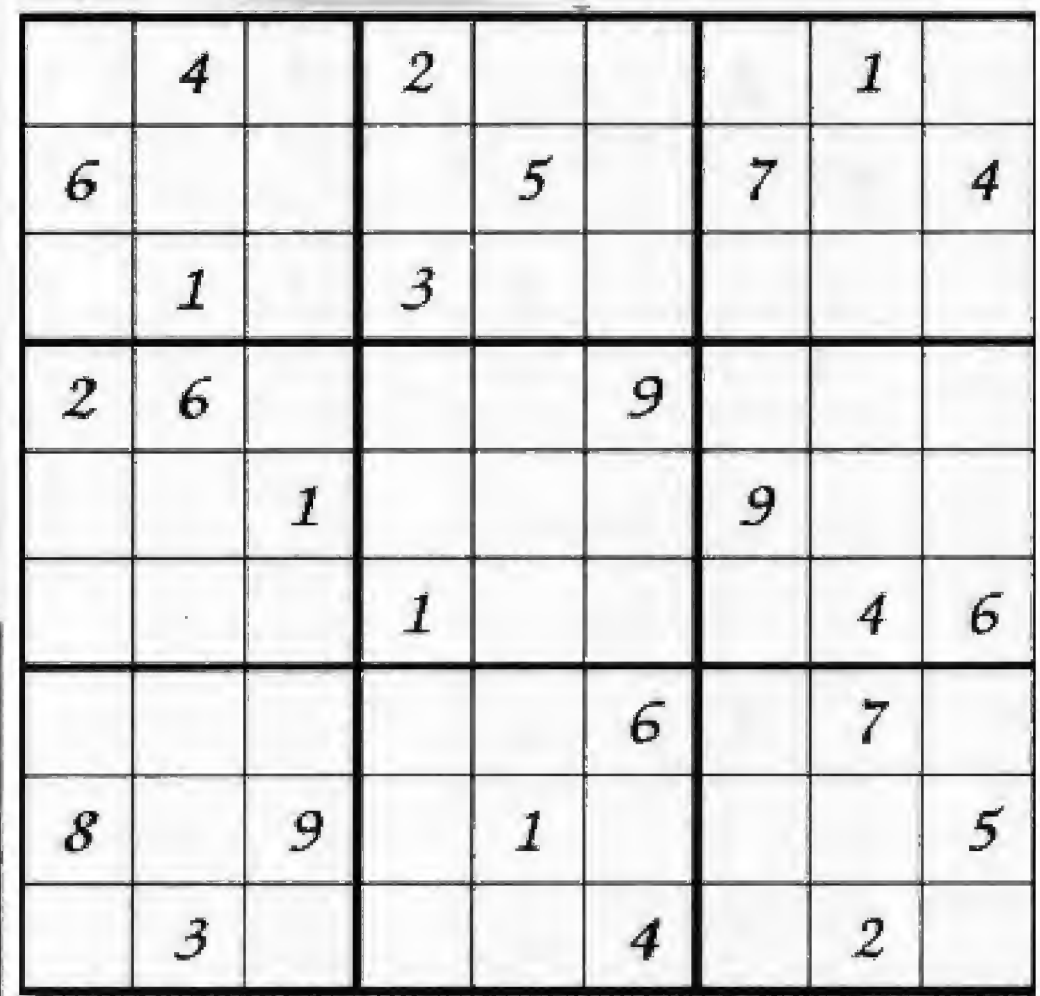
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	9	7	1	2	6	3	8	4
6	4	5	9	3	7	8	1	2
9	8	2	5	1	3	6	4	7
3	5	6	2	8	9	1	7	4
2	8	1	6	5	7	9	3	4
2	6	9	8	7	1	5	4	3
7	3	1	5	6	2	8	9	4
8	1	5	4	9	2	3	6	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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Finance

China's Xi offers Caribbean nations support

President Xi Jinping vowed continued support for the Caribbean region as he met a group of Caribbean leaders in Trinidad and Tobago on the weekend.

During lunch and in separate meetings, Xi met leaders from the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Granada, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname.

He renewed China's efforts to support Caribbean nations' development by stepping up initiatives from the third China-Caribbean Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum in 2011.

He pledged assistance in projects such as setting up one or two agricultural technology centers within the next three years, sending 100 medical workers to the region, training 100 postgraduate students and providing 1,000 scholarships for students.

Li Changhua, former Chinese ambassador to Costa Rica, said China and the Caribbean region countries are economically complementary.

"China's products are welcomed by local people and these countries have their own

competitive products to export to China," Li said.

China can assist these countries with their economic development, said Li, adding that cooperation in tourism has great potential as Caribbean countries have been popular tourist destinations.

Xi, the first Chinese president to visit Trinidad and Tobago since the countries established diplomatic ties in 1974, said he hopes these projects will help boost cooperation between China and Caribbean region nations.

Xi said China and Caribbean region nations should play to their respective advantages, continue to tap potential development opportunities and increase friendly cooperation. This will help form a good partnership with mutual respect and trust to achieve common development and prosperity, he added.

The president flew to Costa Rica on Sunday and will also visit Mexico before attending a two-day summit with US President Barack Obama in California on Friday.

New US sanctions target Iran's currency, auto industry

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States announced additional sanctions on Iran yesterday targeting its currency and automobile industry, stepping up pressure over Tehran's nuclear program.

An executive order by President Barack Obama authorizes sanctions on foreign financial institutions that make transactions in the rial currency or keep accounts denominated in the rial outside the country.

The White House also authorized sanctions against anyone involved in the significant sale of goods and services to Iran's auto industry.

"The steps taken today are part of President Obama's commitment to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, by raising the cost of Iran's defiance of the international community," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

The sanctions came as part of a strategy aimed at forcing the Iranian rial to devalue and to hobble Iranian industry as Tehran refuses to bow to international pressure to reel in its nuclear efforts.

Last month Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen told Congress that, even the US government was turning its focus to the rial as a way to further isolate Iran from the international financial system.

The new order yesterday al-

lows the Treasury to blacklist from the US financial system any institution that handles significant transactions or accounts in the rial outside Iran.

"While the rial has lost half of its value since the beginning of 2012 as a result of our comprehensive sanctions, this is the first time that trade in the rial has been targeted directly for sanctions," Carney said.

A US official said the aim of the order was to make the rial "unusable" outside Iran until the Islamic Republic makes concessions on its nuclear program.

"The idea here is to make the rial essentially unusable outside of Iran," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

Additionally, the White House said, it was "taking aim

at a major revenue generator for Iran" by authorizing the Treasury to blacklist anyone involved in the sale, supply, or transfer to Iran of significant goods or services for the manufacture or assembly of cars, trucks, motorcycles or other vehicles.

"Even as we intensify our pressure on the Iranian government, we hold the door open to a diplomatic solution that allows Iran to rejoin the community of nations if they meet their obligations," Carney said in a statement.

"However, Iran must understand that time is not unlimited. If the Iranian government continues down its current path, there should be no doubt that the United States and our partners will continue to impose increasing consequences."

Factory activity edges up in May but growth sluggish



AFP photo shows Ford F150 pickup trucks displayed at Al Piemonte Ford. The Institute for Supply Management's purchasing managers index (PMI) on US manufacturing unexpectedly slumped into contraction territory in May, for the first time since November, and the Commerce Department reported that construction spending in April rose 0.4 percent, less than half of the increase expected. Nevertheless, better-than-expected US auto sales in May pointed to the continued pick-up in the auto industry Ford shares rose 1.3 percent after reporting a 14 percent increase in May sales from a year ago while General Motors climbed 1.6 percent on a 3.1 percent year-on-year sales gain.

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Current as of: 06/03/2013	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
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Canada	CAD	1.70	1.72	1.74
Britain	GBP	2.65	2.70	2.76
Switzerland	CHF	185.81	186.53	187.33
Netherlands	EUR	229.58	231.68	234.01
Sweden	SEK	26.04	26.76	27.56
Denmark	DKK	30.12	30.84	31.64
Norway	NOK	29.53	30.25	31.05
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(per 10,000)				
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FRIDAY'S Crossword Answer

M	T	V	O	A	F	I	R	A	S
I	I	I	T	H	O	U	S	Y	N
S	E	C	H	O	R	N	L	A	N
S	T	H	E	Y	L	E	A	N	E
S	C	O	U	R	G	O	O	N	
C	A	R	T	S	R	A	N	D	A
A	S	I	U	A	D	M	O	I	
B	E	A	G	L	E	S	C	H	A
R	E	A	P	R	U	S	S	O	
A	L	L	I	E	D	A	M	S	
M	A	I	N	L	O	A	N	I	M
I	C	E	D	Y	U	L	E	N	A
D	E	N	S	R	E	S	G	E	L



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Africa plans emergency force, but can it deliver?



NAIROBI (AFP) - Aware that they have failed to get a fully-fledged peacekeeping force up and running, African leaders now plan a rapid-deployment emergency force, but analysts question whether it can deliver.

The African Union's "African Standby Brigade", meant to intervene swiftly in regional crises, has made little headway since preparations for a proposed force of 32,500 troops and civilians drawn from the continent's five regions started a decade ago.

Only two of five regional sections are close to becoming operational.

A new emergency force announced this week is intended to bridge the gap pending the full coming into operation of that brigade, AU security chief Rantane Lamamra said at the

organisation's headquarters in the Ethiopian capital.

South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia have pledged troops to the interim force. Funding and troop contributions will come from member states on a voluntary basis.

The AU was criticised for not responding fast enough to crisis in Mali, after soldiers seized power in a coup in March 2012, opening the way for Islamist rebels to take over the country's north.

However, some analysts are hopeful.

Solomon Ayele Dersso, senior researcher on conflict prevention at South Africa's Institute for Security Studies, said the emergency force could work since the troops for it will be volunteered by member states with proven military capacity, instead of trying to include soldiers from every member state, as the full Standby Brigade proposes.

The new force will have to make the best of an ungainly name: the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC).

The force will be tasked

with "carrying out operations of limited duration and objectives or to contribute to the creation of conducive conditions for the deployment of AU and/or UN peace operations of wider scope," AU documents said.

Musambayi Katumanga, a political science professor at Nairobi University, said ACIRC will work as a limited measure to contain but not solve crises.

Roland Marchal, an analyst with the French research institute CNRS, was also pessimistic, saying AU states would find it tough to agree on when to deploy.

On top of questions about a common political agenda there are technical problems, he added, notably regarding the capacity of troops from different continental armies to work within a single force.

He noted that Kenya prides itself on having a professional army, even if it first saw active combat in 2011, whereas Uganda and Ethiopia have armies that used to be rebel groups.

Some observers argue that the AU has accomplished great things with its intervention force in Somalia, AMISOM, whose 17,700 men from five nations are fighting to claw back territory from Al-Qaeda linked Shebab insurgents.

Canada bilingualism falls for first time in 40 years



OTTAWA (AFP) - French-English bilingualism in Canada recently fell for the first time in four decades, the nation's statistics agency reported.

According to the last census in 2011, 17.5 percent of Canadians are able to conduct a conversation in both English and French, Statistics Canada said.

The figure is down slightly from a peak of 17.7 percent during a previous count in 2001, after rising steadily every decade from 12.1 percent in 1961.

The agency noted that the total number of bilingual Canadians actually increased from 5.2 million in 2001 to 5.8 million in 2011, but was outpaced by growth in the total population of Canada during the period.

The slowdown in bilingualism occurred in tandem with the decline in the proportion of students exposed to French as a second language, and an increase in the number of immigrants, it said.

Canada's institutionalized use of both English and French began in the early 1960s after a push by francophones for French-language services. Canada had originally been a French colony but Britain captured it with its French population.

According to the census figures, Quebec province reported the highest proportion of bilingual residents at 42.6 percent, followed by New Brunswick (33.2 percent), Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia (10-12 percent), and Manitoba (3.6 percent).

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Eggs, bacon and Aaron's famous hash brown

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice



Gouda burger 2

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

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Golf: South Africa's Sterne withdraws from US Open



ARDMORE (AFP) - South African golfer Richard Sterne withdrew from next week's 113th US Open on Monday, organizers announced on Monday.

The move, which came without a reason for the decision, meant that an extra qualifying spot for the second major championship of the year at Merion Golf Club would be available in Monday's sectional qualifier in suburban New York.

Sterne, who was joint 25th at

the Masters in April, won his sixth European Tour title earlier this year at the Joburg Open.

The 31-year-old from Pretoria made his only appearance at the US Open in 2008 at Torrey Pines, where he failed to make the cut.

Last week, Sterne's compatriot two-time US Open champion Retief Goosen withdrew from the tournament because of a back injury. Goosen won the event in 2001 and 2004.

Football: Neymar transfer cost Barca 57 million - club

BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona vice-president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Monday the signing of Brazilian international Neymar has cost the club 57 million euros (\$74m, £48.7m).

The 21-year-old was officially paraded as a Barca player at the Camp Nou earlier on Monday after the club reached an agreement with his old club Santos and the player himself last month.

And Bartomeu ended speculation about how much the Spanish champions had paid for Neymar, although he refused to specify how much each of the parties involved in the deal had received individually on confidentiality grounds.

As well as Santos, investment companies DIS and Teisa who owned part of the player's economic rights were bought by Barca.

Of the 57 million, Barca had already paid 10 last year in anticipation of sealing the deal for around 40 million euros in total.

However, Bartomeu admitted the late interest shown by rivals Real Madrid and another club had made the deal more expensive.

Bartomeu also confirmed as part of the deal Barca will play two friendlies against Santos, with one taking place at the Camp Nou and the other in Brazil, whilst the player's buy-out clause will be 190 million euros.

SPORTS

Football: Mourinho reappointed as Chelsea manager



LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea confirmed one of the worst-kept secrets in European football on Monday when they revealed that charismatic and controversial former manager Jose Mourinho has returned to the club on a four-year contract.

The 50-year-old Portuguese, who led Chelsea to unprecedented success between 2004 and 2007, succeeds interim coach Rafael Benitez.

His Stamford Bridge comeback had been widely anticipated, with weeks of media speculation culminating in his admission on Sunday that he had agreed to move back to west London.

"I am delighted to welcome Jose back to Chelsea. His continued success, drive and ambition made him the outstanding candidate," said chief executive Ron Gourlay in a statement published on the Chelsea website.

Mourinho arrives from Real Madrid, where an initially fruitful three-year spell ended in acrimony following an un-

successful league title defence, a semi-final exit in the Champions League, and the alienation of senior players including goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

Prior to joining Madrid, he enjoyed a stunning two-season stint at Inter Milan that culminated in an unprecedented sweep of Serie A, Italian Cup and Champions League trophies in 2010.

He is one of only four coaches to have won the European Cup with two different clubs, having first tasted glory in the competition with Porto in 2004.

His subsequent spell as Chelsea manager saw the club emerge as the dominant force in English football.

Backed by the investment of billionaire Russian owner Roman Abramovich, Mourinho won back-to-back Premier League titles in 2005 and 2006, as well as two League Cups and the 2007 FA Cup.

Mourinho has brought coaches Rui Faria, Silvino Louro and Jose Morais with him from Madrid.

Jason Kidd retires after 19-year NBA career



Jason Kidd, 19-year NBA veteran and 10-time NBA All-Star, announced his retirement June 3 with two seasons left on his contract with the Knicks. His 12,091 assists and his 2,684 steals both rank second in NBA history behind John Stockton.

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weekends

Football: Mexico look for vital win against Jamaica

KINGSTON (AFP) - Mexico arrived in Jamaica for today's 2014 Brazil FIFA World Cup qualifying showdown against the winless Reggae Boyz, hopeful of a victory that would put them atop the table.

The Mexicans, with three draws in as many qualifying matches, face a run of three qualifiers in eight days that will also include a stop at unbeaten Panama on Friday and a trip home to face Costa Rica on June 11.

"El Tricolor" face the brutal run because they will be playing in the FIFA Confederations Cup later in the month, thus obliging the move of the Ja-

maica match two weeks ahead of its' originally scheduled June 18 date.

Mexico is looking to draft in goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, who plays for Ajaccio in France, and striker Raul Jimenez from Mexican side America.

Jamaica looks to be bolstered by striker Jermaine Beckford, who netted five goals in his last four games for England's Huddersfield Town, and defender Daniel Gordon, a centre back for Karlsruhe in Germany.

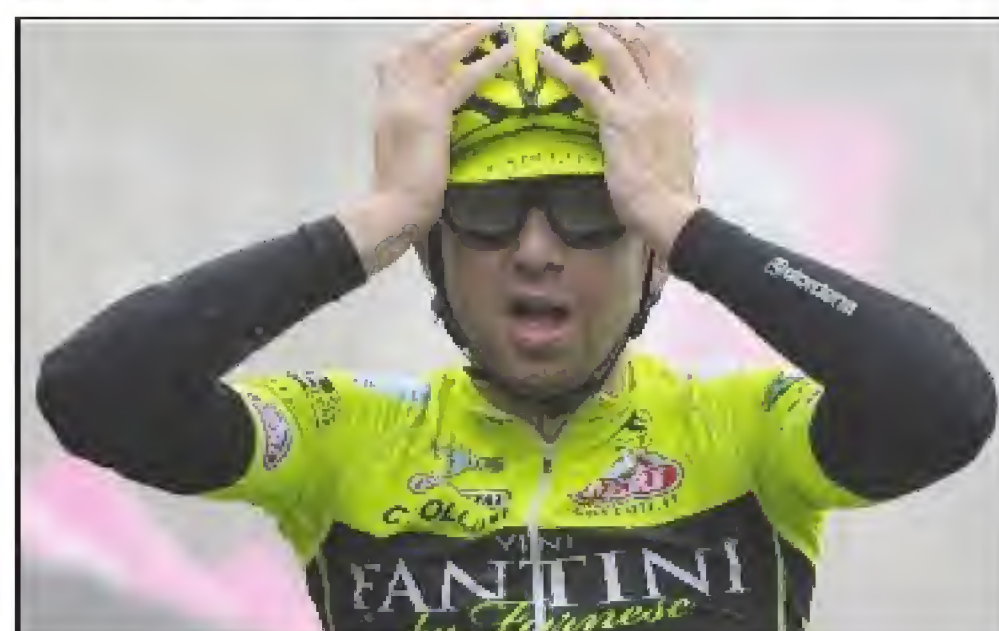
The three top teams among

the six nations in the North American round-robin series will qualify for Brazil while the fourth-place finisher must face New Zealand to decide another berth in next year's global football spectacle.

Panama top the table with a win and two draws with Costa Rica second, the United States third and Honduras fourth, all on the same points total. The Mexicans rank fifth with Jamaica last.

After today, the Jamaicans play host to the US on Friday and visit Honduras on June 11.

Cycling: Santambrogio tests positive at Giro - UCI



LAUSANNE (AFP) - Italian cyclist Mauro Santambrogio tested positive for EPO during last month's Giro d'Italia, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said Monday.

The 28-year-old finished ninth overall on the Giro and won the 14th stage but tested positive for the banned blood-booster on the opening stage on May 4.

He thus becomes the second Vini Fantini rider in the space of 10 days to test positive for EPO after former Giro winner Danilo Di Luca was thrown off the race on May 24 for having also tested positive in an out of competition test before the Giro began.

Santambrogio has been provisionally suspended by the UCI until the Italian Cycling Federation takes a decision on

the case.

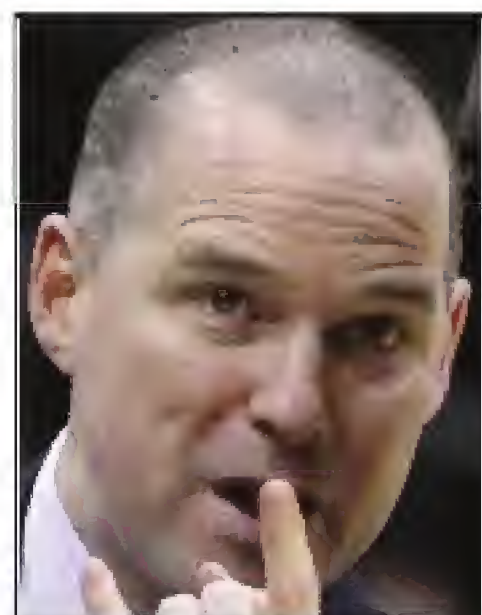
He was twice previously under the microscope during his BMC days having been mentioned in a doping inquiry related to his Lampre days, although no action was taken against him.

Vini Fantini boss Luca Scinto was left devastated by the news and said it could bring down the second-division team, who only competed at the Giro on an invitation.

"What can I say? We're distraught, myself and Angelo (Citracca, the team manager) because we know perfectly well it's a mortal blow."

Santambrogio had been enjoying a great season having finished seventh at the Tirreno-Adriatico, second at the Tour of Trentino and won the Larciano GP.

NBA: Kings name ex-Warrior assistant Malone as coach



SACRAMENTO (AFP) - Indian software magnate Vivek Ranadive, who officially took over as owner of the Sacramento Kings three days ago, named a former employee, Michael Malone, to coach the NBA club on Monday.

Malone had spent the past two seasons as an assistant coach to Mark Jackson with the Golden State Warriors, a club which Ranadive partly owned until being forced to divest the holding in order to assume control of the Kings.

"Michael Malone is one of

the best and most talented coaches in the game," Ranadive said. "As vice chairman of the Warriors, I developed a great relationship with coach Malone and witnessed first-hand how instrumental he was to the success of the team."

Malone replaced Keith Smart, who had been told by the new owners that he would not be retained for next season. Smart went 48-93 in two seasons with the Kings, who went 28-54 this past campaign, 13th in the Western Conference.

Malone was previously an assistant coach for the New York Knicks, New Orleans Hornets and Cleveland Cavaliers as well during 12 seasons in the NBA. He also spent seven years coaching college teams.

Ranadive, 55, grew up in Bombay, India before becoming the founder of TIBCO a multi-billion dollar real-time computing company. His purchase of the Kings for an NBA record \$534 million was approved by fellow club owners last week.

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Tennis: Roland Garros latest



Novak Djokovic fights off 11 of the 13 break points he faced, rallying to advance at Roland Garros

PARIS (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic reached his 16th consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final while seven-time champion Rafael Nadal marked his 27th birthday by also reaching the French Open last night Monday.

Top seed Djokovic carved out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over 16th seed Philipp Kohlschreiber with the German paying a high price for converting just two of 13 break points.

World number one Djokovic goes on to face German 35-year-old Tommy Haas, who became the third oldest man to reach the last-eight with a comfortable 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over volatile Russian Mikhail Youzhny.

Nadal, bidding to become the first man to win the same Grand Slam title eight times, trounced Japanese 13th seed Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-1, 6-3.

It was third-seeded Nadal's 56th win in 57 career matches at Roland Garros.

The defending champion next faces Swiss ninth seed Stanislas Wawrinka who reached his first French Open quarter-final, beating French

seventh seed Richard Gasquet, 6-7 (5/7), 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 8-6.

"I needed to earn my victory, and in the end it was good. I'm really glad to get through, because he's a good quality opponent and he's a specialist for this surface," said Djokovic of Kohlschreiber.

On facing 12th-seeded Haas, against whom he has a 4-3 winning record, the Serb said: "I have a lot of respect for Tommy. He is playing well."

Djokovic, the runner-up to Nadal last year, needs a French Open title to complete a career Grand Slam.

The last time he failed to reach the last-eight of a major was in Paris in 2009 when he lost in the fourth round to Monday's opponent.

Nadal arrived in Paris having collected six titles in eight finals since his return from a seven-month injury lay-off.

Nadal was presented with a giant birthday cake and he will be looking for more celebrations on Wednesday in the quarter-finals as he holds a 9-0 career lead over Wawrinka.

Haas became the first German in 17 years to reach the quarter-finals and the oldest

man to make the last eight at any Grand Slam since Andre Agassi at the 2005 US Open.

Haas had also made history in the third round when he needed a record 13 match points to beat John Isner.

Only Pancho Gonzales, who was over 40 when he made the last eight in 1968, and 39-year-old Istvan Gulyas in 1971, have got this far in the tournament at Haas's age.

Former world number two Haas had lost on clay in straight sets to Youzhny in Rome last month.

two men in the Roland Garros quarter-finals.

Gasquet was defeated for the 15th time in 16 matches at the fourth round stage of a Grand Slam.

While Defending champion Maria Sharapova joined third seed Victoria Azarenka in the quarter-finals as both posted routine fourth-round wins.

Sharapova was all business in seeing off American 17th seed Sloane Stephens 6-4, 6-3 to set up a meeting with Serbian 18th seed Jelena Jankovic, who thrashed US hope Jamie



But he was never troubled on Monday, winning 10 games in succession after losing the opener.

Such was Youzhny's frustration that he smashed his racket nine times against his court-side chair, sending splinters spiralling into the air at Court Suzanne Lenglen.

The violence of his outburst made him an instant YouTube hit even as the match was still being played.

Wawrinka came through a four hour 16min struggle to beat Gasquet in his sixth career comeback from two sets to love down.

With Roger Federer already into the last-eight, it will be the first time that Switzerland has

Hampton 6-0, 6-2, while double Australian Open champion Azarenka swamped 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-0.

Sharapova, who in beating Sara Errani in last year's final became the sixth player in the Open era to complete a full collection of Grand Slams, was rarely troubled by Stephens, Australian Open semi-finalist last January, the Floridian 20-year, gifting her a final break by hitting long on match point.

Next up for Azarenka, meanwhile, is a meeting with Russian 12th seed and erstwhile doubles partner Maria Kirilenko after her win over Schiavone moved her into the last eight for the third time in Paris.

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